

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2967

FOR SR/ORM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ICEM, ELAB, XM

SUBJECT: ICEM'S SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM FOR
LATIN AMERICA - I.L.O.

1. VIEW REDUCED LEVEL USG SUPPORT FOR ICEM'S SELECTIVE
MIGRATION PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA IN CURRENT YEAR AND
PROBABLE NECESSITY FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN CY 1975 AND BEYOND
IN ORDER BRING DOWN LEVEL USG SUPPORT AS RECENTLY REQUESTED BY
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, NEED INDICATED TO REVIEW OUR
POSITION RESPECT THIS PROGRAM AND SEEK WAYS TO ENSURE THAT IT
OPERATING WITH MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY AND SERVING BEST INTERESTS
OF GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SUBJECT PROGRAM WHILE SOUND IN
CONCEPT, HAS BEEN PLAGUED OVER YEARS WITH INORDINATELY HIGH
OVERHEAD ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND, IN TERMS OF DELIVERING
SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL MIGRANTS FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN
LA, HAS MET WITH ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN
1964. MOREOVER, THERE HAS BEEN RELUCTANCE AMONG ICEM MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM IN CY 1973, ONLY 20 OF
ICEM'S 31 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTED TO IT. OF THE 16 LA
MEMBER NATIONS OF ICEM, ALL OF WHICH BENEFIT FROM SUBJECT
PROGRAM, ONLY 9 SUPPORT IT FINANCIALLY AND THE AGGREGATE TOTAL
OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN CY 1973 WAS ONLY \$164,002 (7.9 PER-
CENT OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS). THE USG'S ANNUAL
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CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN RANGING IN EXCESS OF 50 PERCENT

OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. PROGRAM HAS FACED SERIOUS DEFICITS YEAR AFTER YEAR. PROJECTED SHORTFALL IN CURRENT YEAR IS \$279,250.

3. WITH VIEW GIVING THIS PROGRAM A BROADER BASE WITH IMPROVED PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER ENCOURAGING CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN ICEM AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), AND TO RELATE IT MORE CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF LA COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE SUPPORTED BY USAID AND INTERNATIONAL BANKS.

4. ILO IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL BODY WITH TRI-PARTITE STRUCTURE AND CHAIN OF REGIONAL AND BRANCH OFFICES IN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA. MOREOVER, ILO IS EXPERIENCED IN RESEARCH OF LABOR ECONOMICS AND MIGRATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN COLOMBIA ILO ORGANIZED A LARGE MULTI-ORGANIZATIONAL EMPLOYMENT MISSION WHICH PRODUCED STUDY ANALYZING EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IN THAT COUNTRY AND SUGGESTED NUMBER OF REMEDIES.

5. CONCEIVABLY ICEM AND ILO WORKING JOINTLY COULD ANALYZE THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF LA COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SPECIFIC SECTORS OF INDUSTRY AND DETERMINE NEEDS FOR QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS, AND WHETHER OR NOT RECRUITMENT OF SUCH TECHNICIANS FROM ABROAD ESSENTIAL. MOREOVER, ILO THROUGH ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND EMPLOYERS' FEDERATIONS APPEARS HAVE CAPABILITY TO FACILITATE RECRUITMENT IN EUROPE OF QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS FOR LATIN AMERICA.

6. THROUGH SUCH APPROACH ILO COULD DEMONSTRATE THAT ON BASIS ITS RESEARCH AND THROUGH ITS EXTENSIVE FIELD APPARATUS IT COULD BE A USEFUL SEMI-OPERATIONAL INSTRUMENT FOR RENDERING SERVICES TO GOVERNMENTS, HELPING ITS COMPONENT EMPLOYERS' GROUPS, PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND GENERALLY PROVING THAT IT IS AN ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF PRACTICAL SERVICES. ICEM ON THE OTHER HAND WOULD SEEMINGLY BE ABLE TO RETRENCH SOMEWHAT FROM THE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT ASPECTS OF LA PROGRAM AND CONCENTRATE MORE PARTICULARLY ON THE MOVEMENT OF SELECTED CANDIDATES. THIS WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN SECTION III OF ICEM BUDGET AND LEAVE ICEM IN POSITION TO DEVOTE MORE OF ITS ENERGY AND RESOURCES TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
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ACTIVITIES.

7. COINCIDENTALLY, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO (BLANCHARD) WHO PREVIOUSLY HELD SENIOR LEVEL POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION IS FIELD PROGRAM ORIENTED; THEREFORE WE BELIEVE HE MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO ROLE FOR ILO IN SUBJECT PROGRAM. IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT SINCE HIS RECENT ELECTION, BLANCHARD HAS PLACED THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION OF ILO

UNDER ASST. DIR. GEN (TEVOEDJRE) WHO REPUTED BE DYNAMIC ACTIVIST. THUS TIME SEEMS OPPORTUNE FOR MOVE TOWARD COLLABORATION OUTLINED ABOVE. SUCH COLLABORATION WOULD APPEAR GIVE SUBJECT PROGRAM BROADER BASE WITH EXCELLENT TECHNICAL FACILITIES AND IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR FINANCING AS WELL AS RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES.

8. IF DEPARTMENT FINDS MERIT IN ABOVE PROPOSAL, RECOMMEND THAT USG POSITION IN MATTER BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO UP-COMING SPECIAL SESSION ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. RECOMMEND AS FIRST STEP THAT MATTER RECEIVE IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT. DEPENDING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, DISCREET SOUNDINGS COULD THEN BE TAKEN WITH ILO AND ICEM. LATTER WOULD NO DOUBT RESIST PROPOSAL AT LAST INITIALLY IN BELIEF THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD ERODE ICEM'S SPHERE OF ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, IN INTEREST OF SUBJECT PROGRAM AND INDEED IN ICEM'S LONG RANGE INTERESTS, MISSION BELIEVES PROPOSAL WARRANTS CONSIDERATION.

9. PLEASE ADVISE.DALE

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